DREAM ACT TALKING POINTS

- Each year, an estimated 24,000 young undocumented students prepare to graduate from a California High School.

- Most of them are brought to this country at a very young age by their parents and have been raised in the United States just as their U.S. citizen classmates.

- These children join their citizen friends in the community, church, volunteer activities and in high school graduation.

- These young scholars view themselves as Americans and are loyal to our country.

- For most, the United States is the only country they know.

- Although many of these students were raised in California and are eligible for in-state tuition, college is still financially unattainable for the majority of these low income students who are ineligible to work because of their legal status.

- These are the states most vulnerable students that have worked hard to exceed expectations, achieve higher than average grade point averages and overcome many obstacles. These students are valedictorians, class presidents, and all star athletes. They are the future of California.

- Through their hard work and perseverance, these students have earned the opportunity to attend an institution of higher education, their accomplishments should not be disregarded or their future jeopardized because of their legal status.

- The CA Dream Act would reduce the financial burden that “AB 540” students face, by allowing these students the ability to apply and receive financial aid in California.

- AB 130 & 131, the California Dream Act of 2011, are bills about promoting success and achievement. Those who work hard and become good students should not be punished for decisions made by their parents.

- Working hard to achieve ones dreams is a strong American philosophy and the essence of the California Dream.
- The CA Dream Act promotes individual responsibility by encouraging those who have been raised as Californians to become responsible, educated adults and productive members of our communities.

- By investing in our youth, California can continue to position itself as one of the largest economies in the world while reaping the benefits of increased economic productivity and increased tax revenues.

- It is in the best interest of our state’s economy to have an educated workforce to provide the innovation necessary to keep California competitive in the global economy.

- Specifically:

  AB 130 would allow students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply for and receive scholarships derived from non-state funds. This bill has no cost to the state.

  AB 131 would allow students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply and receive financial aid at California public colleges and universities. The types of financial aid these students would be eligible for include:

  1.) Board of Governors (BOG) Fee Waiver
  2.) Institutional Student Aid: Student aid program administered by the attending college or university (i.e. State University Grant, UC Grant)
  3.) Cal Grants. These students would not be eligible to apply or receive any Competitive Cal Grants unless funding remains available after all California resident students have received Competitive awards they are eligible for.